



# NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

&

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING & PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

July 22, 2008 THROUGH August 20, 2008

---

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA  
94102-3688  
Tel 415-865-4200  
TDD 415-865-4272  
Fax 415-865-4205  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)

### **Proposal to Construct a New Courthouse for the City of Stockton, CA in San Joaquin County**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to inform interested parties that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the staff agency of the Judicial Council of California, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed construction of the New Stockton Courthouse in Stockton, California. The project is in the scoping phase; AOC is soliciting public input regarding the EIR's scope and content.

The proposed courthouse property is located downtown in Hunter's Square Plaza, immediately west of the existing San Joaquin County Courthouse at 222 East Weber Avenue (**See the enclosed figure**). The new courthouse building will face Weber Avenue, will be approximately eleven stories tall, and will have approximately 300,000 building gross square feet. The new courthouse will have 30 courtrooms compared to the existing building's 22 courtrooms. The new courthouse will primarily support civil, felony, misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency, and family law functions. The courtrooms will have a secure circulation system to increase courthouse security, and all courtrooms will have holding capability for in-custody detainees to maximize functional flexibility of the courtrooms.

The AOC has also identified an alternative site at Madison and Washington Streets, which is located approximately two miles southwest of the Hunter's Square site. The EIR will also analyze this alternative.

The AOC is responsible for implementation of the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, Senate Bill 1732, which requires the transfer of responsibility for funding and operation of trial court facilities from California counties to the State of California. San Joaquin County transferred responsibility for the Stockton Courthouse to the State in 2007. The Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin (Superior Court) has facilities in the Stockton Courthouse; the Juvenile Justice Center in French Camp; and courthouses in Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy. The Superior Court also recently began operations in the new downtown Stockton Courthouse Annex located at 540 East Main Street. After completion of the proposed new courthouse, the Superior Court will vacate its current space in the County Administration Building and the Stockton Courthouse Annex.

#### WHY THIS NOTICE?

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the proposed project and to provide comments to the AOC concerning the scope and content of the environmental information to be presented in the Draft EIR.

#### HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE?

The AOC encourages your participation. The AOC will hold a public meeting at the location listed below on **July 30, 2008 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM** to discuss the NOP and the Draft EIR and receive public comments. Persons who need reasonable accommodation for the meeting should contact Mr. Ripperda at 916-263-8865. Twenty-four hour advance notice is requested.

#### **Public Meeting Location:**

San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD)  
Downtown Transit Center Boardroom  
421 E. Weber Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95202

For additional information or to provide written comments on the scope of the project EIR, please contact:

Mr. Jerome Ripperda  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Northern/Central Regional Office  
2860 Gateway Oaks, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95833-3509  
E-mail: [Jerry.Ripperda@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Jerry.Ripperda@jud.ca.gov) or FAX: 916-263-8140.  
For questions, call: 916-263-8865

**All mail must be postmarked by 5 PM on August 20, 2008. The deadline for e-mailed comments or faxed comments is 5 PM on August 20, 2008.**

You may download a copy of the Initial Study from the following website:

[http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects\\_sanjoaquin.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanjoaquin.htm)

In addition, copies of the Initial Study document will be available for review in the government document repositories of the following locations:

Community Development  
Department, Planning Division  
City Hall  
425 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

Stockton Main Library  
605 N. El Dorado St.  
Stockton, CA 95202

